HARAMBEE FLAME

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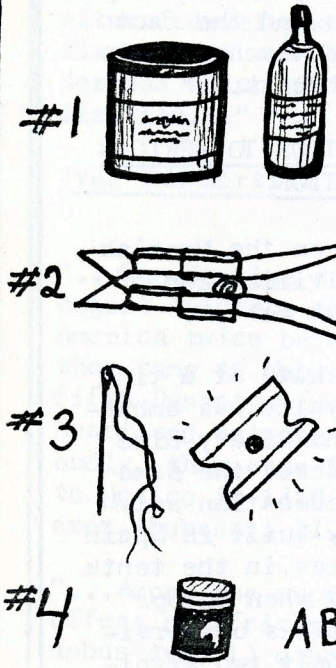

THE R.Y.H. KIT

By ABSURDRON

Tired of that unsightly nappy hair, that broad nose, thick lips, and dark skin? Then this is the kit for you--the RYH Kit. Yes, you can now do more than just reject your heritage through attitude and behavior. You no longer have to be satisfied to reject your Afrikan ancestry by behaving like an Uncle Tom or calling other people who look like you "niggers," etc.

Thanks to our new product line, you can actually look white.

Product #1-hair straightener
Product #2-clothes pin for sharpening up that ugly Afrikan nose
Product #3-razor blade, needle, & thread for making those soup-coolers thinner
Product #4-last, but certainly not least, skin bleach creme to rid yourself of dark skin.

HURRY! BUY TODAY!

H.A.C.O. TO HOLD FORUM ON RELIGION

In several issues of the FLAME there have been articles addressing the question of the roles which have been played by religion(primarily Christianity) on the lives of Afrikan people in the U.S. Presently we are planning to to conduct a forum on this issue at one of our general membership meetings. We would like to conduct this forum sometime in the month of January and wish to have the participation of Afrikan people from the Omaha and Lincoln communities, both clerical and non-clerical persons.

It is our intent that the meeting critically assess the roles that religion has played, what roles are demanded of it by our collective situation, and what we can do to effect changes in the functions served by the "Black Church." Such a discussion will require knowledge of the past and present workings of the "Black Church" and a willingness to discuss the appropriate questions maturely.

If you are interested in attending and/or assisting in the planning of this forum, please write to:

David L. Rice
Educational Chairman
Harambee Afrikan Cultural Org.
P.O. Box 2500
Lincoln, Neb.
68502-0500

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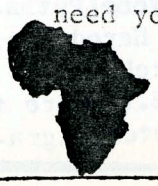
Remember. H.A.C.O. t-shirts are now available at six dollars per t-shirt. We need your support.



Let folks know where you're comin' from.

BOOKS

(This section is taken from "Important Black History Books," an article in the Dec./Jan. issue of BLACK COLLEGIAN by Maulana Karenga. Presented here are excerpts from the article highlighting provocative passages from the text.)

Anta Diop THE AFRICAN ORIGIN OF CIVILIZATION

"...In this text Diop rescues Egypt from Europe and establishes both its African origin and character as well as its relevance to African history...

"Diop offers and develops several proofs of Egypt's African origin and character. Among these are: 1) Egypt's self-definition as Kemit, the Land of the Blacks; 2) eyewitness reports including Herodotus, father of European history who reported Egyptians as Black; 3) the Greek name for Kemit, Egypt, which means Land of the Blacks; 4) religious similarities with Africa; 5)kingship similarities; 6) the practice of circumcision; 7) totemism; 8) matrilineal and matrifocal similarities; 9) linguistic similarities and; 10) claims by other African people of Egyptian origins..."

George James STOLEN LEGACY

"...a well-documented contention that African Egyptians, not Greeks are the authors of so-called Greek philosophy. James argues that so-called Greek philosophy is really a kind of revised version of the Egyptian Mystery System, or more precisely, a borrowing from the socio-religious philosophy of Egypt which served as a source and framework of higher education in both Egypt and other parts of the ancient world... Among the historical evidence are: 1) the fact that Greek, as well as other students, by their own admission studied in Egypt; among which were Pythagoras, Democratus, Thales, Herodotus, et al; 2) Alexander the Greek's conquest of Egypt in 333 B.C.E.(Before the Christian Era) lead to greater migration and study, the borrowing and absorption of concepts and knowledge, and the theft of books and other documents from Egyptian libraries; and 3) the impossibility of Aristotle's being the authentic author of the 400-1,000 books attributed to him, because of their number, the diversity of their subjects and the fact that Aristotle nor his teacher Plato were versed in the subjects..."

John Jackson INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN CIVILIZATION

"...it is his section on the Moorish contribution to the civilization of Europe which stands out most...

"(Jackson points out that) At a time when even European royalty was embarrasingly illiterate and ninety-nine percent of Europe suffered the same fate, the Moors made education universal. Moreover, they built in Spain seventy public libraries in the tenth and eleventh centuries when Europe had none; seventeen famous universities when Europe had only two significant ones and taught such subjects as trigonometry, astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology, geography, botany, history and had professional societies of the learned and creative. ..."

Chancellor Williams DESTRUCTION OF BLACK CIVILIZATION

"...The strength of Williams' work lies in its thrust to give an alternative interpretation to African history...

"Williams, after discussing the origin and scope of his study, begins to cite and develop factors which he sees as contributive to this massive historical destruction of Black civilizations. Among these factors are: 1) European and Asian conquest; 2) religious conversion to Christianity and Islam; 3) racial intermixture which led to disappreciation of Black heritage; 4) ideological war by European scholars to destroy and distort

Black history; 5) migrations from centers of civilization which interrupted or halted progress; 6) the coming of slavery which destroyed historical initiative; 7) internal problems of ethnic chauvinism("tribalism") and resultant warfare which weakened capacity for resistance, and finally; 8) natural developments like the expanding desert and forced life in the wilderness which were unconducive to civilization..."

Ivan Van Sertima THEY CAME BEFORE COLUMBUS

"...Van Sertima contends that there is cogent evidence that Africans came to America twice before Columbus. First, they came as Nubians from the twenty-fifth Dynasty of Egypt to the Olmec heartland between 300-700 B.C.E. Secondly, they came from the Mali Empire to Mexico in 1310 and 1311 under Emperor Abubakari II.

"...Among the supportive evidence he offers of African presence before Columbus are: 1) other artistic and cultural evidence in addition to the colossal heads, i.e., masks, symbols, shields, etc. 2) similarities of religious practices in Africa and Mesoamerica; 3) the presence of the step-pyramid, a distinct religious structure which appeared at La Venta, the site of the Africanoid heads; 4) similarities of plants in Africa and Mesoamerica suggesting transportation; 5) linguistic similarities; 6) skeletal evidence of African presence; 7) the navigational possibility, and; 8) reports and observations by European explorers of African presence when they arrived..."

Vincent Harding THERE IS A RIVER

"..., as the subtitle suggests, a bringing into a new light 'the Black Struggle for Freedom in America.'...

"Starting with struggles of resistance off the west coast of Africa, he walks us through a pageantry of bravery, daring and refusal to submit up to the end of the Civil War..."

Tony Martin RACE FIRST

"stands out as a key text in African American history. Although its focus is on the ideological and organizational struggles of the Hon. Marcus Garvey, its relevance reaches beyond him to all Afro-America.

JA. Rogers GREAT MEN OF COLOR

"...Rescuing and reconstructing various neglected aspects of Black history, Rogers presents persons of African descent whose impact on Black and world history is undeniable.

"Starting with ancient history, Rogers explores African and Asian sources and gives us luminaries such as the Egyptians Hatshepsut, Thotmose III and Akhnaten, Pianki, King Shaka, Queen Nzingha, Aesop, Bilal,..."

FROM OTHER SOURCES

Money stuff--"...Besides loss of income, researchers have found that every one percent increase in unemployment results in a two percent increase in deaths, three to four percent rise in mental hospital admissions, and increase of five percent in homicides, imprisonment, and infant mortality...

"A recent study by the National Journal says the bottom fifth of American families averaged about $3,800 in cash income in 1981...

"The top fifth of American families averages about $37,000 in income. In 1983, they'll gain over $2,000 to account for 43.3 percent of the nation's income..."

-MILWAUKEE COURIER(Nov. 27) from an article by John E. Jacobs

EROSION OF THE CONSTITUTION

In the past several months, President Ronald Reagan has forwarded legislative proposals to Congress on the subject matters of 1) the Insanity Defence, 2) the Exclusionary Rule, and 3) Federal Habeas Corpus availability for state prisoners. It is my position that this legislative effort is aimed at racial minorities which disproportionately populate the state and federal prisons throughout the country. The effect of such legislation, if passed, will undoubtedly be to close off all avenues of defense under the Constitution, which this country has operated under throughout its history.

American-born Afrikan men and women serving time in these infernal communities/prisons are generally not knowledgable of any of the components of this legislation. Very basically, the Insanity Defense is a judicial device used for the purpose of arguing that an individual may have committed his or her crime under conditions of either chronic or temporary mental dysfunction. This form of defense is not commonly used by black people. Rather, it is most often used by upper-middle-class people, i.e., John Hincley, Jr., who can afford the best criminal lawyers who specialize in this type of defense.

The Exclusionary Rule finds its roots in the Fourth Amendment which makes it applicable to the states via the Fourteenth Amendment, Mapp v. Ohio(1967). This rule stands for the proposition that any direct or indirect evidence obtained from an illegal search will not be used against anyone in a criminal trial.

We know, or should know, that many black people in this country have had their homes and businesses illegally entered and subsequently rummaged through by local, state, or federal law-enforcement agencies. The exclusionary rule has its most potent effect during the post-trial proceedings of criminal convictions where illegally seized evidence has been used to gain a conviction. Under the Exclusionary rule such cases may call for remanding, dismissal, or reversal of convictions. The Exclusionary rule is of great value to all citizens with respect to their right not to be subjected to unwarranted searches.

For many years the Federal Constitution has been protected by federal jurisdictions and the Habeas Corpus Act, which has its roots in the U.S. Constitution, provides that any U.S. Constitutional violation by the state can be reviewed by the federal courts in accordance with their Rules of Criminal Procedure.

It should be noted that the Burger Court has disallowed reviews of Fourth Amendment claims by means of Habeas Corpus. Reagan's attempts to get Congress to pass new legislation in this area constitute another effort on the part of a conservative government to do away with the rights of criminal defendants.

It is our responsibility to counteract these efforts by means of letting Senators and Congressmen know that we have no intention of allowing already abusive police powers to be even more greatly expanded. Such an expansion would serve to co-sign other on-going attempts to further repress criminal defendants during the course of what is called a "fair and impartial trial."

--Darwin Robinson

Chairman/H.A.C.O.

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